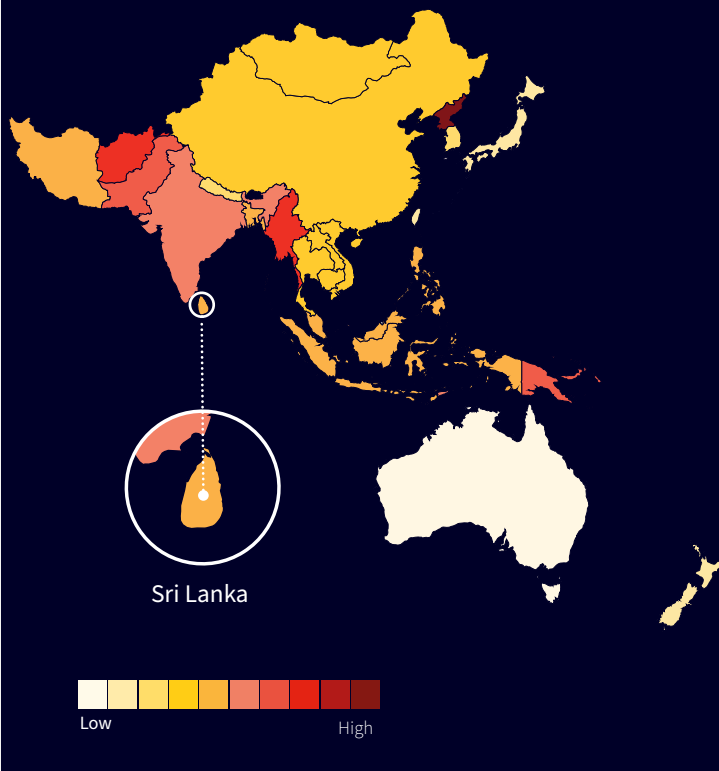


Modern slavery in Sri Lanka

Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery across Asia and the Pacific



KEY STATS

Population (2021) 21,413,250

GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl \$) \$13,227

6.5

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

139,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

56/100

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

49/100

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

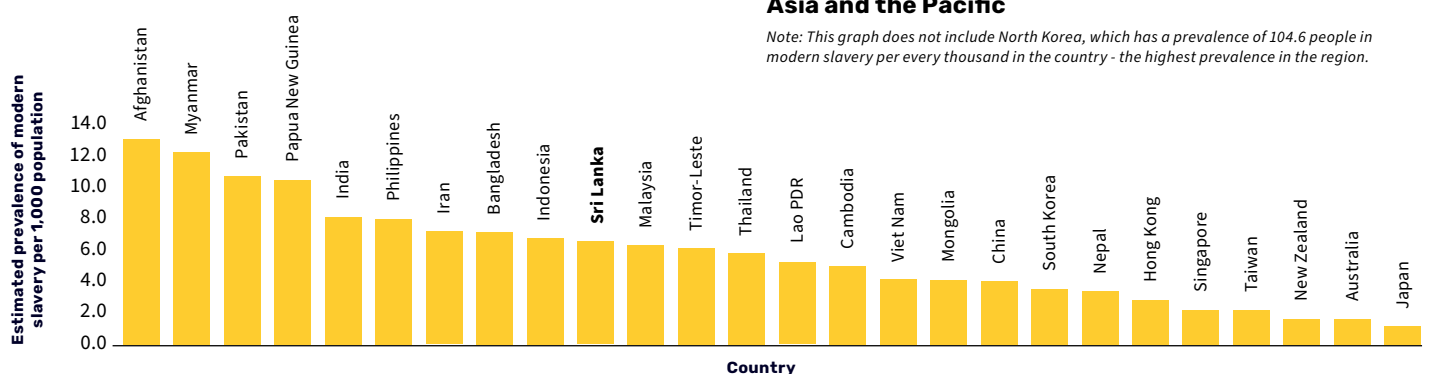
The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 6.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Sri Lanka at any point in 2021. In other words, 139,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Sri Lanka in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Sri Lanka ranks 68th globally and 11th within Asia and the Pacific.

Figure 2.

Estimated prevalence of modern slavery across Asia and the Pacific

Note: This graph does not include North Korea, which has a prevalence of 104.6 people in modern slavery per every thousand in the country - the highest prevalence in the region.



Modern slavery in Sri Lanka

Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot



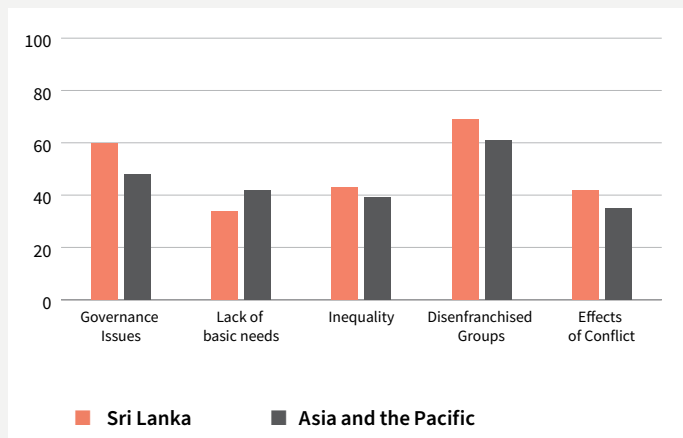
THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023



Vulnerability to modern slavery

How vulnerable a country's people are to modern slavery is dependent on a range of factors which reflect the strength of governance, access to basic needs, inequality, disenfranchised groups, and effects of conflict. On a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest vulnerability to modern slavery, Sri Lanka is rated as 56 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

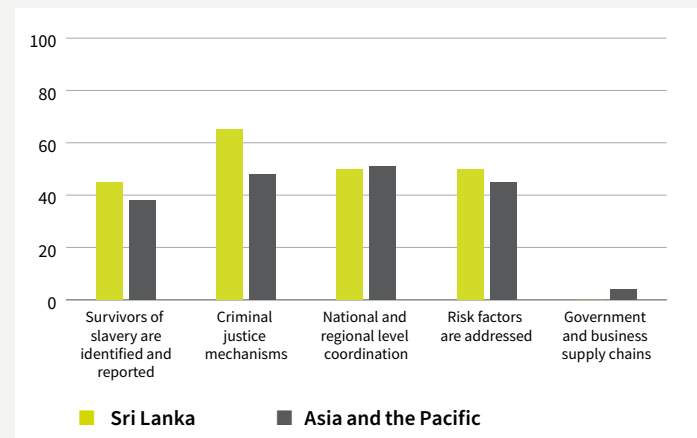
Figure 3.
Vulnerability of Sri Lanka to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average



Government response to modern slavery

The government of Sri Lanka scored 49 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government's response above the average regional response. Of the five areas of response assessed (milestones), the government has taken most action on effective criminal justice mechanisms and least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

Figure 4.
Government of Sri Lanka's responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average



Priority Recommendations for business

- 1 Adopt the employer pays principle – ensuring all recruitment and related fees are paid by employers, not employees – and establish procedures to monitor adherence.
- 2 Establish and raise awareness of an independent grievance mechanism for workers to report complaints.
- 3 Actively promote respect for the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining and create an enabling environment for trade union activities, including by establishing zero tolerance policies towards anti-union discrimination and harassment.

Priority Recommendations for government

- 1 Introduce legislation to prohibit charging of recruitment and related fees to workers and monitor local recruitment agencies for adherence.
- 2 Pursue and strengthen bilateral and multilateral labour agreements with key receiving countries, including the Gulf States, to protect migrant workers and avoid labour migration restrictions that discriminate on the basis of age or gender.
- 3 Promote respect for rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining and investigate reports of anti-union discrimination and violence, and conduct regular labour inspections, including in the informal sector, free trade zones, garment factories, and tea estates.